



The Old Ironsides Report

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U.S. Soldiers and Local Iraqis Restore Soccer Fields

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49th PAD (ABN)

BAGHDAD, Iraq –Task Force Neighborhood brought the children of two Al Rashid neighborhoods new soccer fields and a playground July 28.

U.S. Army combat engineers, civil affairs soldiers and neighborhood Iraqis participated in the clean up, refurbishment and installation of playground equipment and soccer goals in the Al Doura and Al Furat neighborhoods.

“We communicate through the community council and decide what the greatest need is,” said Maj. Al Robinson, civil affairs officer, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion. “The council has a sports committee. And, this section of Al Doura had the most need for the soccer fields.”

Iraqi workers were paid two dollars to help paint goal posts, hang soccer nets and remove litter from the fields.

Residents said the soccer fields were very important for the neighborhood and appreciated the help of the coalition soldiers.

“Before the war, no one was taking care of the soccer fields in Al Doura,” said Muaaed Aamoel. “We love the sport very much. The majority of Iraqis prefer soccer.”

A couple days later, Task Force Neighborhood moved to the Al Furat neighborhood to begin transforming a dump into a children’s playground and a soccer field.

The small field next to the neighborhood was piled head high with trash when the council decided to make a soccer field out of the area, said Lt. Col. Charles E. Williams, squadron commander, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment.

The trash was picked up by the residents and hauled away in large trucks, said Williams. The Army engineers leveled the field with their graders, laid gravel and decorated the area with large flowerpots. By the end of the day, the slides and swing sets were put together and the playground and soccer field was ready for the children to begin playing.

The Task Force Neighborhood project accomplished a goal for the neighborhood council, encouraging the area’s young people to take positive activities like sports, said city councilman Dr. Ali Hussain Faraj David.

“This is very important for the (neighborhood),” Ali said. “They have been waiting for it, and now we are here to help them out.”

The effect of the day’s work could be seen when the children of the neighborhood swarmed to play on their new playground equipment.



Local Iraqis string up a new net for a neighborhood soccer goal. The Al Doura neighborhood had three of their soccer fields renovated as part of a Task Force Neighborhood Project

A Smart Tip from 1AD Safety

VEHICLE MOVEMENT AND PARKING IN LSA

- ✓ **PARKING WILL BE 15 METERS FROM SLEEPING AREAS / DFACs**
- ✓ **VEHICLES WILL BE PARKED AND CHOCKED TO PREVENT ROLLING INTO SLEEPING AREAS / DFACs / TENTS**
- ✓ **VEHICLES WILL PASS THROUGH BIVOUAC OR ASSEMBLY AREAS ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY**
- ✓ **DRIVERS WILL HAVE GROUND GUIDES WHEN DRIVING THROUGH BIVOUAC OR ASSEMBLY AREAS**
- ✓ **GROUND GUIDES WILL USE FLASHLIGHTS AFTER DARK.**

NEWS

Marine Team Lands in Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - U.S. military helicopters shuttled a seven-member Marine team into Liberia on Wednesday, putting the first American troops on the ground in what Washington stresses will be only limited support for a West African peace force. A few dozen excited children on Monrovia's Atlantic beaches pointed and waved as the olive-green U.S. military helicopters swept in from U.S. warships far off shore and settled onto a tarmac pad out of sight behind the U.S. Embassy's high white walls.

Springer Says He Won't Seek Senate Seat

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - Talk show host Jerry Springer, who brings the kinky and the tacky into America's living rooms each day, said Wednesday he will not return to politics by running for U.S. Senate next year. "As long as I'm doing that show, my message, no matter how sincere and no matter how heartfelt, does not get through to the people I need to reach," he said.

Scientists Say They've Cloned a Horse

Scientists in Italy say they have created the world's first cloned horse, raising the possibility of a sequel to the next Seabiscuit or a carbon copy of Kentucky Derby champion Funny Cide. The small, sturdy work horse is now two months old, weighs about 220 pounds and is in excellent health, said its creators. Their announcement beats a Texas A&M team awaiting the birth of its own horse clone.

Oddly Enough:

Mich. Farm Life Brochure Has Manure Odor

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) -- Ottawa County officials are raising a stink as they try to educate would-be residents of some of the realities of rural living. The Ottawa County Planning Commission has created a new brochure designed to reduce nuisance complaints that new homeowners sometimes make against farmers. The pamphlet includes a scratch-and-sniff section that emits a genuine odor of manure. "It's an attention grabber," said Mark Knudsen, director of the county's planning and grants department. "The whole purpose is that people should not move into a rural area unless they're willing to accept and embrace the practices that happen on a farming operation." Ottawa remains a major farm county, with dairy cows, beef cattle, chickens, turkeys and hogs. Too many buyers with a taste for country life are moving in and complaining about noise, dust and odors, farmers and county official say. "We've got people near us calling the police and saying they don't want to hear the tractors," said Ann Pyle, whose family has a dairy herd. The pamphlet explains that state law generally protects farmers from complaints about their operations, especially when spraying pesticides, spreading manure, transporting products and driving slow machines on two-lane roads.

Chaplain's thought for the day: ***How to Hold a Team Together***

I'm just a plow hand from Arkansas, but I have learned how to hold a team together. How to lift some men up, how to calm down others, until finally they've got one heartbeat together, a team. There's just three things I'd ever say:

If anything goes bad, I did it.

If anything goes semi-good, then we did it.

If anything goes real good, then you did it.

That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you.

-- Bear Bryant

Another way to talk about team building is to remember our Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. That is what we are about building a team which lives our Army

On This Day In History: ***August 7th 1742***

Revolutionary war hero Nathanael Greene was born on August 7, 1742, in Potowomut, Rhode Island. Appointed to the rank of major general in 1776, Greene is best known for his astuteness as commander in chief of the southern army, a position he assumed in 1778. In January of 1781, Greene contributed to the defeat of British General Lord Cornwallis at Cowpens, South Carolina. Greene forced Cornwallis, whose forces far outnumbered the Americans, to divide his troops and defend his territory on two fronts. The British subsequently retreated to Charleston, where they remained until Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown, Virginia on October 19, 1781.